

Appl. No. 10/729,355  
Amdt. Dated November 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2005  
Page 11

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Changes to sheets 7, 10 and 11 (of 13) of the drawings are being made by the present amendment. Specifically, corrections have been made to Figs. 10, 17 and 18 as required by the Examiner. Annotated sheets showing the changes being made are also attached.

Attachment:      Replacement Sheets  
                    Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to because of certain errors with reference numerals and the like appearing in Figures 1, 10, 17 and 18. Corrected drawing sheets are being submitted herewith which are believed to fully address each of the errors noted by the Examiner. Regarding Fig. 1, the line referred to as a "reference line" in the Office Action is a "cut line" showing the cut along which the cross-sectional view of Fig. 6 is taken. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is requested.

Claim 29 was objected to due the presence of the phrase "said pump said such" in lines 19-20. By the above amendment, this phrase has been corrected to read "said pump such." It is thus believed that the objection to claim 29 has also been overcome.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 26-29 are allowed. Applicants are appreciative to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 9-10 and 22-24 were objected to as being dependant

upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. It is thus believed that claims 9-10 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Francart, Jr. (Re 34,957). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francart in view of Croke et al. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francart in view of Forde. Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francart in view of Velan. Particularly to the extent these rejections may be applied against Applicants' amended claims, they are respectfully traversed.

By the above amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled dependent claims 2 and 3. Specifically, independent claim 1 now requires an arrangement wherein an anchor located at the second end of the compression spring has a socket. In addition, a pivot

member is operatively connected to the second end of the compression spring via a tip portion engaging the socket of the anchor.

Such an arrangement is illustrated, for example, in Figure 13 of the present application where anchor 68 defines a socket 71 in which a tip portion 69 of the pivot member is inserted. As the float moves between low level and high level positions, tip portion 69 moves within the socket 71 in a "ball in socket" fashion. At a certain point in the process, compression spring 22 will initiate snap over, causing the valves to alternate position. Notably, this arrangement may advantageously provide a small area of contact between the spring anchor and the pivot member, thus reducing friction and concomitant wear.

This is in distinct contrast to Francart, which shows a conventional pivot arrangement of the prior art. Instead of a "tip portion" engaging a "socket," Francart discloses an arrangement wherein a transverse pin 30 is inserted through cylindrical end cap 26. In addition, pin 30 makes a frictional fit with the opposed arms 20b of the U-shaped lever or yoke 20. It is respectfully submitted that none of the structures shown in Francart can be fairly characterized as a socket engaged by a

tip portion of a level member as those terms are utilized in the present application.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

In addition, various dependent claims serve to further distinguish and limit the invention set forth in independent claim 1. Each of the dependent claims is believed to be fully patentable in its respective combination.


For example, dependent claim 4 specifies an arrangement wherein the periphery of the socket includes at least one wall protruding therefrom so as to prevent lateral disengagement by the tip portion. An example of such a structure is illustrated in Figures 16 and 17 of the present application. Nothing of this type is contemplated in the Francart reference. Dependent claim 5 specifies that the tip portion is formed from tungsten carbide. In this regard, the deficiencies of Francart have been discussed above. Moreover, the use of tungsten carbide in Applicants' particular environment is not disclosed in the Croke reference.

New claims 30-37 have been added by the above amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain aspects

of Applicants' inventive subject matter. Each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, upon amended independent claim 1.

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, it is submitted that the present application, including claims 1, 4-13, 15-21 and 23-37 is in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any minor issues remain after consideration of the present amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

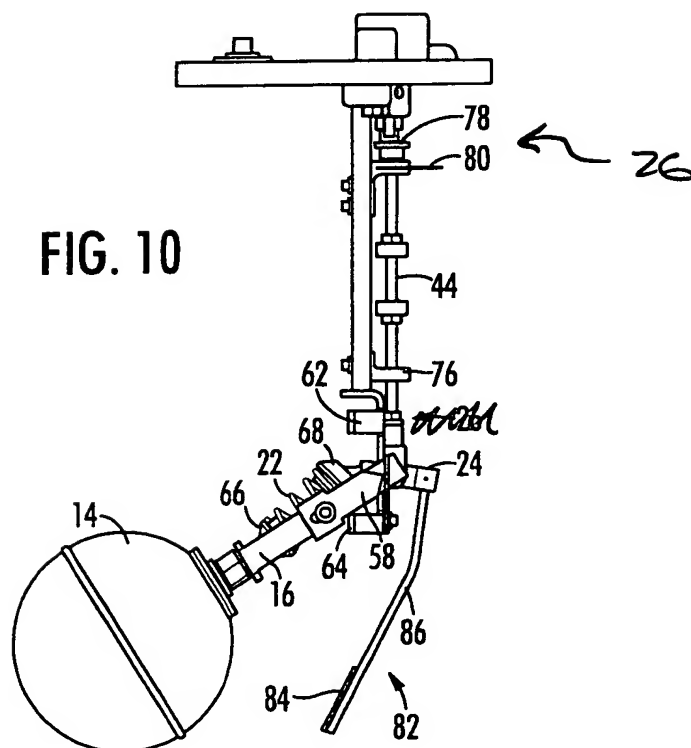
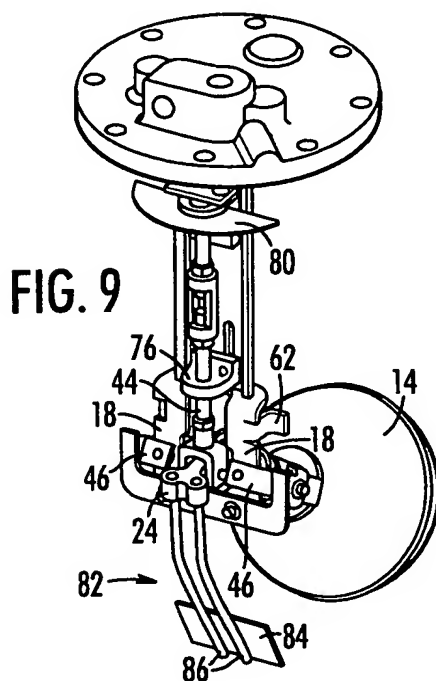
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Spring Pivot Mechanism and Damping System  
Inventors: Jon W. Dukes et al. Serial No. 10/729,355  
ANNOTATED SHEET



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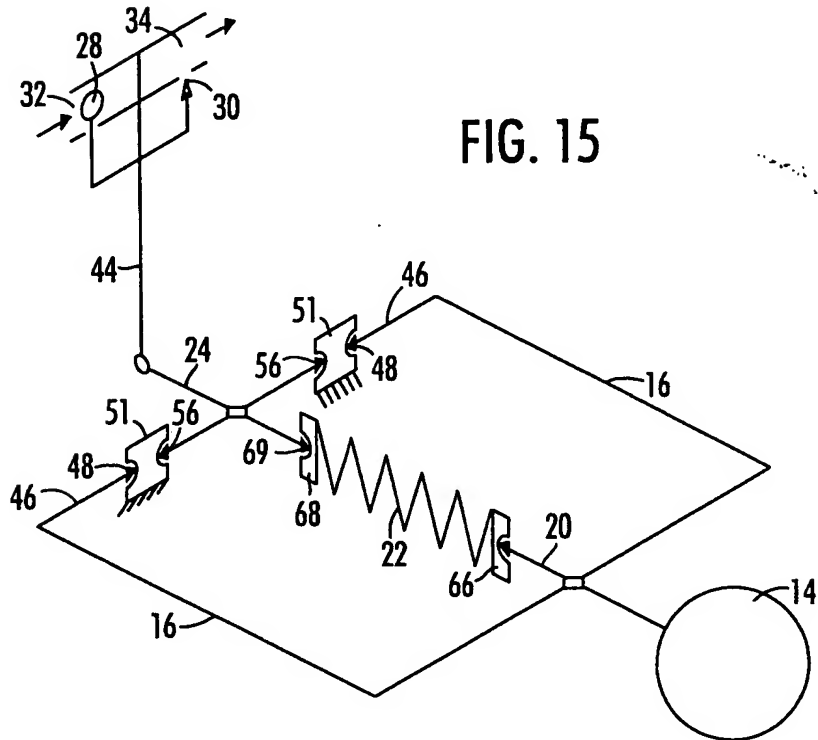


FIG. 15

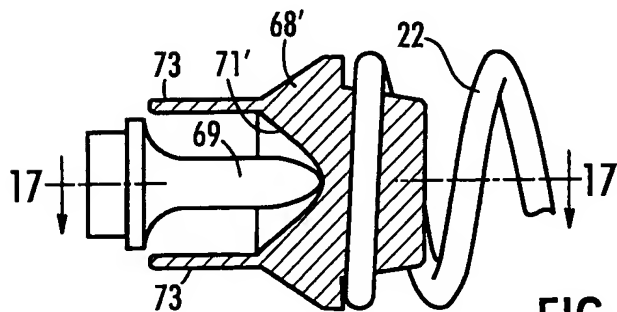


FIG. 16

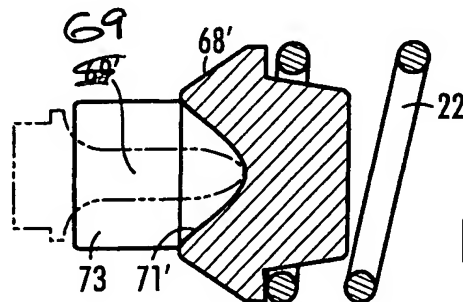


FIG. 17



